

# LATIN NOTES

Published by the *SERVICE BUREAU FOR CLASSICAL TEACHERS* at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. Eight Issues, October to May. Price of Subscription, 50 Cents.

Entered as second class matter March 20, 1924 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Address communications to FRANCES E. SABIN, Director of the Bureau

Vol. IV

April, 1927

No. 7

## The American Classical League

The catchword in American education at the beginning of this century was "practical." Because the classical languages, as taught in our schools and colleges at that time, were popularly supposed to yield but little practical knowledge, the movement became widespread to drop them entirely from the curriculum or to reduce them to the minimum so that students might give most of their time to the so-called vocational subjects.

Under these conditions Greek almost disappeared from our schools and Latin was ebbing fast. The friends of the humanities, justly alarmed, began calling to Greek and Latin teachers to improve their methods of instruction and thus to silence their critics by demonstrating the great practical value of classical studies.

Then came the World War, giving fresh impetus to scientific pursuits. The making of poisonous gas and other instruments of human destruction engaged the energies of the world. The influence of this was felt at once in educational circles, and, as a result, cultural studies were pushed still farther into the background. Thoughtful men and women began to fear lest our civilization, which was the product of the best minds working through centuries of effort, would be utterly destroyed and barbarism would engulf the Western World.

The advocates of humanistic studies felt that some decisive action was necessary and they looked to classical teachers to lead the way. The crisis was ably met by Dean Andrew F. West of the Graduate College of Princeton University. In the spring of 1917 he invited hundreds of men and women prominent in official public life, in business, in science, in journalism, and in education, to be his guests at a great conference on the Value of the Classics. Special trains were needed to carry the throngs to Princeton on that day.

The speakers were of national and international reputation, outstanding representatives of their departments in action and thought. The testimony of these distinguished men was remarkable. Their utterances were practically unanimous in favor of the study of Greek and Latin preparatory for the pursuit of law, medicine, engineering, journalism, and other professional and scientific callings.

Following the conference, Dean West with great labor collected the statements and scores of other notable persons both in America and in Europe and published them together with the full text of the addresses at the Princeton Conference in an epoch-making volume entitled "The Value of the Classics." It contains also statistical tables based upon the published results of the College Entrance Examination Board papers over a series of years. These show conclusively that pupils who have studied Latin and Greek out-rank in other subjects the non-classical group, which goes far to show that the study of Greek and Latin fertilizes the mind and makes it more productive.

This volume—an arsenal of irrefutable arguments—should be in the hands of every teacher. It may be secured from the Princeton University Press and copies are at hand in many school and public libraries.

The following year President M. Carey Thomas of Bryn Mawr College, speaking before the New York Classical Club, called upon the classical teachers of the country to lead in a crusade in behalf of all cultural studies. She said that the ultra-moderns, who had attacked Latin and Greek, were already directing their efforts against the English classics, disapproving even of the study of Shakespeare and Milton. This led to the Classical Conference held in conjunction with the National Education Association meeting in Pittsburgh two months later. Dean West was unanimously chosen chairman and empowered to appoint a committee to effect an organization which would be national in scope.

In 1919, when the National Education Association met in Milwaukee, the American Classical League was organized and Dean West was elected President. The Council of the League consists of members elected at large and representatives from the regional Classical Associations and from the large Classical Clubs like those in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, and a representative each from the American Philological Association and the Archaeological Institute of America.

Largely because of the influence and efforts of Dean West, the press of the country has given wide publicity to the work which the League has undertaken. In every city where it has met, the editors of the great dailies have freely accorded space for full reports of the programs and have written vigorous editorials championing the classics. The League is favorably known abroad and is recognized as leading in the fight for general recognition of the value and place of the humanities in a well rounded education. At a dinner in New York it was host to Sir Frederick Kenyon, Director of the British Museum.

Already the League has justified its existence by many notable achievements:

1. Its publications include many books and pamphlets which shed light on the status and problems of classical teaching in this country and abroad. Thousands of copies have been sold and the demand for them shows that they meet a real want.
2. With a view to improvement in the teaching of Latin, it has successfully conducted a national Investigation of Classical Teaching, covering a period of over three years. The cost of the work and the publication of its findings were defrayed by the General Education Board and the Carnegie Corporation. Disinterested judges have pronounced this Investigation the most thorough and scientific which has ever been made in any educational field. Dr. Mason D. Gray and Professor W. L. Carr were charged with the supervision of the work. They were

assisted by an advisory committee of fifteen members and by thousands of teachers and students throughout the country, who gave their services freely in helping to secure and tabulate the data.

The results of the Investigation included not only a presentation of facts as they are, but also a statement of the immediate and ultimate objectives to be sought in classical teaching, far-reaching suggestions on content, and a stimulating chapter on methods. Thus the standard of a teacher's work, it is expected, will rise when the objectives to be sought are clearly known; when the content is selected with a view to the attainment of these ends; and when a class room procedure has been adopted which is most effective for the achievement of educational values claimed for the study of Latin. Copies of the Report, published in 1924, have been widely distributed.

3. It has established and maintains at Teachers College, Columbia University, a Service Bureau for Classical Teachers. Frances E. Sabin, Director of the Bureau, receives on an average five hundred letters a month from perplexed and inquiring teachers, concerned with the academic, the pedagogical, or the professional side of Latin. The questions of the writers she either answers herself or she refers them for answer to some one of the many experienced teachers who cooperate with her. Those instructors, moreover, who are no longer tyros find that they may often save both time and money by making use of the many mimeographed and printed articles which are of value to everyone who is interested in the teaching of the classics.

Eight times a year the Bureau publishes *LATIN NOTES*, a four-page bulletin which is sent at a nominal price to teachers far and wide. The many grateful notes of appreciation which Miss Sabin receives, and the remarkable increase each year in the amount of orders for material bear witness to the helpfulness of the BUREAU as a clearing-house for information on teaching.

4. The League annually holds public meetings, usually in connection with the sessions of the National Education Association. The speakers on the League programs have been of high rank both as men of affairs and educational experts, including the President of the United States, the National Commissioner of Education, and several State Commissioners. It has arranged this year to hold one meeting in New York City in June and another in Seattle with the National Educational Association in July. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance at both places.

Because of impaired health Dean West, much to the regret of everyone, has resigned the presidency of the League. He has been made its honorary president. The new president is Professor Ralph Van Deman Magoffin of New York University. Correspondents should address him at University Heights, New York City. His great success as president of the Archaeological Institute of America presages well for the continuing growth and usefulness of the Classical League.

Every teacher and every earnest student of the classics and every friend of classical studies should enroll as a member of the League. The annual dues are \$1.00. Life membership may be secured for \$25.00. The secretary-treasurer is Prof. Rollin H. Tanner, New York University, University Heights, New York City. Every member will receive a subscription to *LATIN NOTES* and notices of all other publications.

The League is not a competitor of any existing classical association either local or regional, but cooperates with all and seeks to unite all for greater effectiveness in advancing the cause of classical study in American schools and colleges.

—ANNA P. MC VAY  
Wadleigh High School  
New York City

### The Significance of the American Classical League

The American Classical League is the only organization of its kind in this country; the only one which has set its hand to a national service; the organization best able to exert powerful influences; and the one most willing to bend its every energy toward widening the classical outlook, broadening classical interests, and strengthening the classical cause.

The American Classical League has made its place; it is maintaining its stride; it must reach the goal it has set before us. The 22,500 secondary school teachers of Latin, Greek, and Classical History and Archaeology, and the million and a quarter of precollegiate students in those subjects, can be welded into an irresistible educational and cultural force. The League must extend and correlate its activities in such a way that harmony of purpose may animate the relations between precollegiate and collegiate students and teachers. The League must encourage and assist in the formation of regional classical associations, state classical conferences, municipal classical centres, and local classical clubs. The League must preserve a vigilant outlook for real or possible attacks upon the classics and assume and maintain an attitude of firm opposition to such attacks.

There is no better social and educational asset in the world than a classical foundation and background. Our cause deserves universal support. It can get it only by determined and united effort; it can keep it only by the steady, firm, honest, and reasonable pressure exerted by us all together. Every teacher of Latin and Greek in this country should be a member of the American Classical League, and should read its publications.

We should dedicate our best efforts to uphold the ideals which Andrew Fleming West, founder and first president of the American Classical League, has brought to such a splendid realization. The League may truly be regarded as the crowning labor of a life time of devotion to unselfish service in the cause of the classics.

What a tremendous force we can be if we will all help one another! The American Classical League is the servant of all who are concerned with the advancement of the classics; it believes it can be an efficient and serviceable center for classical interests; it has no axe to grind but one, and that a weapon against ignorance; it aspires to be the bearer of a cultural standard upon which are emblazoned the mightiest of all words: LUX, VERITAS, UTILITAS, PATIENTIA, FIDES.

RALPH VAN DEMAN MAGOFFIN  
President of the American Classical League  
New York University

### American Classical League Notices

#### ANNUAL MEETING

The seventh annual meeting of the American Classical League will be held in New York City June 25, 1927. The list of speakers and the place of meeting will be announced in the May issue of *LATIN NOTES*. Another meeting will be held in July in connection with the sessions of the National Education Association at Seattle.



Kiff  
Miss Gertrude Breed  
11-1-1932

## MEMBERSHIP

The dues of the members of the American Classical League (\$1.00) will be collected in the future by the national office, and not through the various regional or state associations. Beginning with October, 1927, LATIN NOTES will be sent free of charge to all members of the League who have paid their dues for the year. Proper adjustment will be made with those League members who have already paid in advance for the year 1927-1928. The subscription price of the NOTES for those who are not members of the League will be 75 cents.

It is most important to enroll as many life members as possible. The League will be glad to receive names and addresses of those who may be interested in securing such membership by the payment of \$25.00.

## PUBLICATIONS

The following publications of the League can be obtained by writing to the secretary, Rollin H. Tanner, New York University, University Heights, New York City.

*Short Statements.* This is just the thing to put in the hands of school and college students, teachers, parents, editors, business men, professional men and all men and women who want something short and convincing.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 25 cents; 100 copies for \$1.00; 500 copies for \$4.00.

*Thought the Master of Things.* By Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States. An address delivered July 7, 1921, by Vice-President Coolidge in Philadelphia, before the American Classical League. This compact and powerful statement puts the case for classical education on the highest moral and patriotic grounds. It should be read by every American who cares for education.

Single copies, 5 cents; 25 copies for \$1.00; 100 copies for \$3.00; 500 copies for \$10.00.

*Aims in American Education.* By Charles Evans Hughes, former Secretary of State. The message from Secretary Hughes to the American Classical League was read at the General Meeting of the National Education Association in Boston on the Fourth of July, 1922. It was received by the audience of over five thousand teachers with enthusiastic applause which again and again interrupted the reading. The passage declaring that we have not found any satisfactory substitute for the classical and mathematical training was especially applauded. This message is one of the best campaign documents we have.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 25 cents; 100 copies for \$1.00; 500 copies for \$4.00.

*Shall We Continue Latin and Greek in Our Schools?* By John J. Tigert, United States Commissioner of Education. An address read at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the American Classical League at the University of Michigan, June 30, 1923. This vigorous address of the United States Commissioner of Education strongly advocates the classics as a necessary element in the best secondary and higher American education.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 10 cents; 60 copies for 50 cents.

*The Classics in Modern Life.* By Sir Frederic Kenyon, Director of the British Museum and recently President of the British Academy. Here is the statement of one of the most distinguished scholars and most eminent administrators now living, given in New York on February 21, 1923. It rests the whole case for the classics on their immense value to modern life and thought.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 25 cents; 100 copies for \$1.00.

*The Case for Latin in Secondary Schools.* By J. W. Mackail, Sometime Fellow of Balliol and Professor of Poetry in the University of Oxford. His intimate knowledge of the present situation in the schools of Great Britain and his participation in the investigation which produced in 1921 the report of the Prime Minister's "Committee to Inquire into the Position of Classics in the Educational System of the United Kingdom," entitled "The Classics in Education," make Professor Mackail's presentation especially timely and important.

Single copies, 25 cents; 10 copies for \$1.00. It may also be ordered from the publisher, John Murray, 50A Albermarle Street, London W. 1, England.

*The Study of Latin and Greek and the Democracy.* By Alfred Croiset, Dean of the Faculty of Letters in the Sorbonne. Whoever wants to learn quickly what the classics mean to

France should read this clear, simple and graceful statement by a French authority of the first rank.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 10 cents; 60 copies for 50 cents.

*Greek for Latin Teachers.* By John A. Scott, Northwestern University. Here is a brief, charming, and clear statement of some important reasons why every Latin teacher should know Greek. If they know Greek, they will see what Vergil, Horace, and Cicero saw.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 25 cents; 100 copies for \$1.00; 500 copies for \$4.00.

*Archaeology for Classical Teachers.* By R. V. D. Magoffin, President of the Archaeological Institute of America. Read this if you want to see at a glance the immense help archaeology gives a student or teacher of the classics.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 25 cents; 100 copies for \$1.00; 500 copies for \$4.00.

*The New Establishment of the Classics in the Secondary Schools of France.* This consists of three parts:

I. Editorial on "The Classics in France," *The New York Times*, June 17, 1923.

II. Complete Text of Report of M. Léon Bérard, Minister of Public Instruction in France.

III. Complete Text of the Decree of May 3, 1923. The most sweeping victory gained for classical education in the secondary schools of any country in this last generation is embodied in the revised plan of studies for the French lycées. The plan was put into operation in October, 1923. It has been maturely considered and signifies the post-war reconstruction of the secondary schools of France.

Single copies, 10 cents; 20 copies for \$1.00; 50 copies for \$2.00.

*A Very Short Lesson for Young Americans.* Here is a quick, short way of bringing home to every American boy and girl the immense importance of the classics in our national language. There are four brief passages given from the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, Washington's Farewell Address and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address to be read aloud saying "blank" for each word of classical origin, thus making amusingly clear how little is left when the classical words are omitted. It is just the thing to be read aloud in concert.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies, 10 cents; 60 copies, 50 cents; 100 copies, 75 cents; 500 copies, \$3.00; 1000 copies, \$5.00.

*The Study of Latin.* By Andrew F. West, Dean of the Graduate School, Princeton University. A brief summary of the reasons why boys and girls should study Latin and why many of them should also study Greek.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 25 cents; 100 copies for \$1.00; 500 copies for \$4.00.

*Why Study Latin?* Eight short papers by Willis A. Ellis, Proof-reader in charge of the Proof-room of the *Chicago Daily News*. These brief, clear and interesting papers are written for American boys and girls and their parents, from the standpoint of the experience of a practical printer in one of our leading newspapers. They are really a series of talks, given with the utmost simplicity, directness, and cogency. They should be read by all high school pupils and by their parents. The last paper is on the study of Greek and puts the reasons clearly in the briefest way.

Single copies, 5 cents; 5 copies for 15 cents; 10 copies for 25 cents; 50 copies for \$1.00.

*Letter from a Labor Leader.* By Albert Mansbridge, Founder of the Workers' Educational Association of Great Britain and Chairman of the World Association for Adult Education. He is a workingman who is resolved that the children of workmen shall not be cut off from the chance to take the best general education and shall not be restricted to vocational training only. He is the leading British labor leader in the field of education, to which he is energetically devoting his life. He has been honored by the Universities of Oxford and Manchester, and has also served on the Royal Commission to examine into the condition of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 10 cents; 60 copies for 50 cents.

*Greek in English.* A keen and witty pamphlet by Rev. Francis P. Donnelly of Holy Cross College, revealing the surprisingly important part Greek plays in our present-day English.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 10 cents; 60 copies for 50 cents.

*A Reasonable Plea for the Classics.* By Gonzalez Lodge, Professor of Latin and Greek in Teachers College, Columbia University. An exact and discriminating review of the present situation and the claims of the classics. Especially useful for teachers.

Single copies, 5 cents; 5 copies for 15 cents; 50 copies for \$1.00.

*High Schools and Classics.* By Frederic Irland, Reporter of Debates for the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. A forcible and amusing demonstration by actual recent examples of the weakness in England of pupils who do not

study the classics. It should be read by every high school student.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 25 cents; 25 copies for 50 cents.

*Religio Grammatici.* By Professor Gilbert Murray of the University of Oxford. New reprint. A lucid and admirably written sketch of the place and meaning of language and literature in human civilization, with special reference to the great rôle of the classics.

Single copies, 25 cents; 5 copies for \$1.00. [Another edition in book form may be ordered from the Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass.]

*An Engineer's View of Classical Study.* By John N. Vedder, Union College, Schenectady, New York. The intensive practical engineering interests centered in Schenectady and his connection with our current engineering instruction give the author unusual opportunities for seeing what is the matter with engineering education and make more convincing his strong and aggressive plea for the classics as essential to the best education.

Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies for 10 cents; 60 copies for 50 cents.

*Latin as the International Auxiliary Language.* By Roland G. Kent, Professor of Comparative Philology, University of Pennsylvania. Here is a clear summary of opinion and arguments on this question by an acknowledged authority. It is the kind of publication to put in the hands of any teacher or editor who wants information on this subject, which is now so widely discussed.

Single copies, 20 cents; 4 copies for 50 cents; 10 copies for \$1.00.

*Value of One Year of the Study of Greek.* By Anna P. McVay, Wadleigh High School, New York City. Published by the SERVICE BUREAU FOR CLASSICAL TEACHERS as Latin Notes Supplement XX. Single copies 5 cents.

### Why Teachers Should Be League Members

The SERVICE BUREAU FOR CLASSICAL TEACHERS is at present dependent upon the American Classical League and the hospitality of Teachers College for the continuance of its work. For several years the League has been able to draw upon a special fund granted for educational purposes, which will probably not be longer available. This means that the League must have the financial support of classical teachers and friends of the classical cause in general if it is to continue its activities. If even one-half of the twenty-two thousand teachers of Greek and Latin in the country were to become members by the payment of \$1.00 (and henceforth this includes a LATIN NOTES subscription), the outlook for the League would be most satisfactory. Certainly all persons who are interested in what the SERVICE BUREAU FOR CLASSICAL TEACHERS is trying to do for the cause of Latin teaching should not hesitate to become members of the League at once. Fifty cents of the membership dues are turned over to the BUREAU as paid subscription to LATIN NOTES. The price of LATIN NOTES alone will be 75 cents for the coming year.

### A Request

The SERVICE BUREAU is now in its fourth year. It has a long list of subscribers to its official bulletin and is doubtless known to leading teachers in all parts of the country. Orders for material both as loans and for purchase are very large, increasing sometimes by 100% annually. It would seem, then, that the BUREAU is on a fairly firm foundation as far as the character of its activities is concerned. The director, however, is not easily satisfied and each year attempts to gather advice and suggestions as to ways and means for making the work more and more useful to the cause of Latin teaching. She will welcome whatever subscribers have to offer in the way of constructive suggestions, even though the circumstances under which the BUREAU must transact its business at present may not permit of carrying out some of the ideas suggested for consideration.

## MATERIAL FOR DISTRIBUTION

### I. In Mimeographed Form

*This material is lent to teachers upon payment of postage, or is sold for five cents per item unless otherwise indicated. The numbering is continued from the March issue.*

254. A list of dances and drills. Reprinted from the CLASSICAL JOURNAL, Volume 19, pages 113-116.
255. A small slip containing Christmas greetings in Latin suitable for enclosure in Christmas letters. Ready in September.
256. A list of Latin textbooks for use in secondary schools published in 1926 and the earlier part of 1927.
257. Tournament number of the TEXAS LATIN LEAFLET, NO. 18.
258. Contracts in the teaching of Vergil. Prepared by Calla Guyles, Assistant Professor of Latin, University of Wisconsin.
259. Syllabus of a course in Roman civilization. Prepared by the classical faculty of Brown University. May be borrowed but not purchased.
260. The Latin Leaflet of the Louisville Male High School, Volume 9, pages 10 and 11, contains material relative to the Kentucky Latin Tournament. May be borrowed but not purchased.
261. Some suggestions for scansion. Reprinted from the TEXAS LATIN LEAFLET.
262. The problem of drill: a practical suggestion. Contributed by Mrs. Marie T. Garo, Ames, Iowa.

### II. Latin Notes Supplements

*Numbering continued from the March issue.*

XXX. What shall be the character of a course in college for the training of students preparing to teach Latin? A symposium. Ready late in March.

**Note:** Bound volumes of SUPPLEMENTS I-XXV may be purchased for \$2.85, plus postage, and Volume III of LATIN NOTES for \$1.15.

### III. Bulletins

IV. English Poems Dealing with Classical Mythology. Twenty-five cents.

V. A List of Classical Books; interesting primarily to college instructors, but of value also to teachers in the high school. Compiled largely from the PUBLISHERS WEEKLY for 1926. Arranged alphabetically by authors.

### IV. Little Studies In Greek

A series of fourteen lessons designed to acquaint teachers and pupils with some of the important points of the Greek language. Prepared by Dr. Jane Carter of Hunter College, New York City. Published and sold by the SERVICE BUREAU FOR CLASSICAL TEACHERS. Price per set 70 cents. Single copies, 5 cents. Not available at the BUREAU after August, 1927.

Leaflets I-II and III contain a list of material beginning with Dec. 1923. Sent upon application.